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SRI A. RATNAM :—" சென்னையிலே 10,000 ரூபாய்க்கு மேலாக இந்த சுதந்திர தின கொண்டாட்டத்திற்காக செலவழிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்று சொன்னார்கள். அலங்காரத்திற்காகவும், படாடோபத்திற்காகவும் எவ்வளவு என்றும் பாமரர்களை பராமறிப்பதற்காக எவ்வளவு செலவழிக்கப் பட்டது என்றும் கேட்கிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I may inform the hon. Member that the Government of India have informed us that we celebrated the Republic Day this year on a very meagre scale and that we should celebrate it on a grandeur scale next year. We are considering that suggestion."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Is it not very incongruous that we should spend so much money in the City and so little in the rural parts, especially when the villagers want some sort of diversion or distraction? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I do not think we should provide distraction to villagers by way of such celebrations. Of course, we will consider the question of providing a little more money for the celebration of Republic Day in the districts."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" நமது சர்க்கார் மிகவும் கருமித்தனமாக செலவு செய்கிறார்கள். இப்பொழுது சுதந்திர தினத்திற்காக செலவு செய்த பணம் மிகவும் சொற்பம் என்று சொல்லுவதாகச் சொன்னார்கள். செலவு செய்யக்கூடிய பணம் பூராவும் மத்திய சர்க்கார் கொடுப்பார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" If it is a considerable sum, I would be prepared to bargain for it with the Central Government. But we will get greater sums of money in other directions rather than in this case and we need not be bargaining for such small sums of money."

SRI A. GOVINDASWAMY NAYAGAR :—" பெரும்பாலான மக்கள் கல்வி வசதியின்றியும், சுகாதார வசதியின்றியும், ரோட்டு வசதியின்றியும் இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களின் தேவைகளுக்குப் பணம் இல்லையே என்று சர்க்கார் கைவிரிக்கிறார்கள். அப்படியிருக்கும்பொழுது இவ்விதமான ஆடம்பரச்செலவு செய்வதன் காரணம் என்ன ? "

9-10 a.m. THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I do not think Rs. 10,000 is too much for spending on a Republic Day. Of course the hon. Member may not be enthusiastic about the attainment of the republican status but we are really interested in it."

Government Coir Factory, Beypore, Malabar.

* 1269 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government Coir Factory, Beypore, Malabar, continues to function along with the Coir Training School attached to it; and if not, why?

(*b*) whether any report or representation has been recently received by the Government on the working of the concern; and

(*c*) if so, the contents thereof and the action taken thereon?

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) Yes, Sir. The Factory is attached to the Government Coir School.

" (b) Yes, Sir.

" (c) In the year 1949, the Joint Director of Industries and Commerce made a surprise inspection of the Coir Factory at Beypore and noticed several irregularities in the administration of the factory which resulted in shortages of stocks of coir and other losses to the Government. At the same time the audit report for the factory for the year 1950–51 and the special departmental audit conducted in July 1952 revealed further shortages and instances of irregularities. Three sets of charges were framed against the officer Sri Syed Mohammed who was in charge of the factory. The shortages and losses involved on account of the maladministration of the factory amounted to about Rs. 16,200. All the sets of charges framed against the officer were proved and the Government have ordered the removal of the officer from service from the date on which he was placed under suspension."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" What steps have the Government taken to realize the amount involved in the shortage? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Government examined whether a civil suit may be instituted against the officer to recover the amount; but it was found that even if we could get a decree, the amount could not be recovered. Therefore, the proposal to file a civil suit was dropped."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" After settlement of this affair, will the Government re-start the factory considering that the coir industry is one of the most important industries in Malabar? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have already answered while replying to a question two days back that Government do not consider it feasible to run a factory on a commercial basis."

Development of the Bombay-Cape Comorin road via Taliparamba as a National Highway road.

* 1270 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the construction of a bridge across the Kuppam river at mile 6/5-8 of Payyanur-Taliparamba section, Bombay Cape Comorin road, was given in contract to Messrs. Gannon-Dunkerly in early 1953 and whether it was cancelled subsequently;

(*b*) if the answer to clause (*a*) is in the affirmative, the reasons for the cancellation;

(*c*) whether the Government have received any representation with regard to the construction of the National Highway road *via* Taliparamba;

(*d*) if so, what action has been taken thereon;